EcoRA Work Group Conference Call - May 10, 2001, 9:00 - 9:35 AM

Participants:
Julie Campbell, USFWS
Bob Foley, USFWS
Randy Connelly, Spokane Tribe
John Roland, Ecology
Bill Beckley, Ridolfi
Harry Ohlendorf, CH2M Hill
Brenda Osterhaug, CH2M Hill
Steven Hughes, URS
Anne Dailey, EPA

Update of EcoRA Finalization:
- Development of the response to comment database is complete and revisions to the EcoRA text/tables/figures are also nearly complete
- EPA anticipates that the final CDA EcoRA will be mailed in late May or early June 2001. Parties will get a CD and/or hard copy per their request (see previous notes). All parties will receive the CD and parties who requested the hard copy will receive it as well.

Changes from the DEcoRA => FEcoRA:
Many changes, both small and large, have been made to the risk assessment in response to comments received during conference calls, at the milestone meetings and during the comment period. Several key areas of changes from the DEcoRA to the FEcoRA include, but are not limited to, the following:
- Background concentrations were recalculated using a subdivision of substantial geographical area covered by the project. The basin was subdivided as follows: Upper Basin (CSMs 1 & 2), Lower Basin + Lake CDA (CSMs 3 & 4) and the Spokane River (CSM 5)
- The revised background concentrations have been factored into the eco-risk calculations and the other components of the RI/FS
- Re-analysis of risks using the 95%ile upper confidence limit (UCL) of the mean for exposure and/or the overlap in distributions of exposure versus effects levels provided a more realistic assessment of risks than the approach used in the Draft EcoRA. As a result, HQs often were lower, and no risks were indicated for some birds (osprey, bald eagle, and northern harrier) and mammals (fisher, wolverine, river otter, gray wolf, lynx, and beaver). Many of these species are predators that are not highly exposed to soil-sediment, the primary medium of concern for wildlife.
- Addition of probabilistic analysis for spotted sandpiper, tundra swan and vagrant shrew, which strengthens the risk conclusions
- The above changes in the risk calculations are significant (and took significant time to implement) and the net results of the above changes are that the marginal risks drop out

and the solid risks remain
- In essence animals at higher trophic levels were no longer at risk and the species which exist closest to the contaminated sediment/soil are at the most risk
- In addition to the above changes, many other substantive and textual changes have been made in response to comments submitted in effort improve the clarity of the document and appendices.

EcoRA - Next Steps:
- Harry Ohlendorf and other members of the EcoRA team will be involved in the development of the proposed plan to ensure that the conclusions of the ecological risk assessment are carried forward into the next phases of the project.
- Also, Vick Clausen, Univ. of California-Davis, has been brought into the project to help guide revegetation of riparian areas and stabilization of banks.

Waterfowl Feedings Studies:
- The amended soils and sediment are "aging" both in the field and in the laboratory in preparation for use in the upcoming waterfowl feeding studies.

Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) Fall Meeting -
- At the November 2001 SETAC meeting to be held in Baltimore, there will be a technical session focused on the Coeur d'Alene Basin Ecological Risk Assessment.

This is Last Scheduled EcoRA Teleconference / THANKS!!!:
- Given that the completion date of the Coeur d'Alene EcoRA is practically upon us, this will be the last EcoRA teleconference. Thanks so much to the many, many folks who have participated on the regularly scheduled calls and the "milestone" workshops, reviewed draft documents, and read the notes from the calls. As you know, membership in the EcoRA Work Group was open to any individual or group that indicated an interest and asked to be included. The mailing list grew substantially during the almost two years that the group has been functioning. The input from the group has been immensely valuable to EPA and our contractors as we developed the ecological risk assessment. I believe that the resulting risk assessment is a much better document because of the input of the EcoRA Work Group members. We appreciate your involvement, patience, and commitment to the process.
- In the near future, the historic EcoRA teleconference slot will be used by parties developing the remedial alternatives and proposed plan. We hope that EcoRA Work Group members will continue to be involved in these critical next steps in the Coeur d'Alene Basin.

====>>>Thanks again to everybody for your continued involvement!!!